AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing spherical polyamide particles having a mean diameter of less than 1 mm, comprising the following steps:

a) preparing a dispersion of a first liquid which comprises a solution of polyamide monomers in a solvent, in a second inert liquid thereby forming a reaction medium, the reaction medium comprising two phases, a continuous phase formed by the second liquid, and a dispersed phase formed by the first liquid, the first and second liquids are essentially immiscible;

b) polymerizing the monomers by polycondensation and/or polyaddition by heating the reaction medium and maintaining the heating at a temperature below the melting point of the polyamide with the desired degree of polymerization;

c) optionally, decompressing the reaction medium to atmospheric pressure;

d) optionally, gradually cooling the reaction medium; and

e) recovering the spherical polyamide particles therefrom.

20. - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The process as defined by Claim 19 ~~21~~, said first liquid comprising a solution of monomers in water.

23. (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, said monomers comprising caprolactam, adipic acid or hexamethylenediamine.

24.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, said second liquid having a boiling point greater than 150°C at atmospheric pressure.

25.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, said second liquid comprising an aliphatic hydrocarbon or a mixture of aliphatic hydrocarbons.

26.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, wherein the ratio between the volume of the first liquid and the volume of the second liquid is greater than or equal to 0.5.

27.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, wherein the pressure during step b) ranges from 1 to 20 bar.

28.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, wherein the temperature during step b) is greater than or equal to 150°C.

29.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, wherein an azeotrope of the second liquid, of the solvent for the monomers of the first liquid and of the by-product of polycondensation is distilled during step b).

30.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, wherein the duration of step b) ranges from 10 to 60 minutes.

31.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, wherein the temperature during step c) is less than the melting point of the polyamide with the desired degree of polymerization.

32.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, comprising a step f) for washing the spherical polyamide particles.

33.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, comprising a step g) for drying the spherical polyamide particles.

34.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 33, wherein the steps a) to g) are successive.

35.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 19, wherein the spherical particles have a mean diameter of less than 100 μm.

36.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 35, wherein the spherical particles have a mean diameter of less than or equal to 30 μm.

37.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 26, said ratio being greater than or equal to 0.75.

38.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 36, wherein the spherical particles have a mean diameter of less than or equal to 10 μm.

39.   (Previously Presented) The process as defined by Claim 36, wherein the spherical particles have a mean diameter of less than or equal to 5 μm.

40.   (Previously Presented) The spherical particles of the process as defined by Claim 19.

41. - 42. (Canceled)

43.   (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 41, wherein the reaction medium is free of a dispersion-stabilizing agent or an emulsifying agent.